East Asian Studies at Leeds
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
Important information

Information provided by the University such as in presentations, University brochures and the University website, is accurate at the time of first disclosure. However, courses, University services and content of publications remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies or to keep courses contemporary through updating practices or areas of study. Circumstances may arise outside the reasonable control of the University, leading to required changes. Such circumstances include: industrial action, unexpected student numbers, significant staff illness (where a course is reliant upon a person’s expertise), unexpected lack of funding, severe weather, fire, civil disorder, political unrest, government restrictions and serious concern with regard to the transmission of serious illness making a course unsafe to deliver. After a student has taken up a place with the University, the University will look to give early notification of any changes and try to minimise their impact, offering suitable alternative arrangements or forms of compensation where it believes there is a fair case to do so. Offers of a place to study at the University will provide up to date information on courses. The latest key information on courses, entry requirements and fees can be found at [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses). Please check this website before making any decisions.
Here you can study Chinese, Japanese, or Thai to an advanced level, while gaining a firm understanding of the historical, cultural, political, social, religious and economic contexts in which these languages are spoken.

You can focus on one subject area in more depth in a single honours course, or study two subject areas in a joint honours course – either within East Asian Studies or combined with another subject from across the University. If you study a language course, you will spend time studying abroad at a university in China, Japan, Taiwan, or Thailand, before returning to Leeds to complete your degree. No prior knowledge of the language is assumed in our courses, although we can usually accommodate those who have previously studied at intermediate or advanced level.

If you study a non-language course you may still have the opportunity to study abroad.

We are proud of the close and friendly atmosphere between staff and students, who mix frequently for social and academic activities including films, seminars with guest speakers, photo competitions, Christmas parties and graduation balls. The East Asian Research, Japanese, Thai and Chinese societies all arrange regular events that are extremely popular amongst our own students and the many East Asian students on campus.

Top 10 for East and South East Asian Studies
(Complete University Guide 2018)

“I spent a year in Beijing, studying 8am-12pm every day and then we had free time to do a bit of travelling.”

Sylvia McFarlane
BA Chinese
WHAT WILL I STUDY?

BA Chinese (Modern) T100

China’s increasing prominence in world affairs is obvious to all, but how much do we really know about China, with its rich history, and its complex emergence today as a modern powerful nation?

Studying the Chinese language and culture will give you an insight into an increasingly influential part of the world, and equip you with skills and experience that employers find invaluable.

**Studying Chinese language and culture will give you an insight into an increasingly influential part of the world.**

**Years 1 & 2:** In your first year, our aim is for you to gain a solid foundation in the Chinese language, and an overview of the history and culture of China. This is in preparation for your year abroad, when you will take an intensive one-year course, taught entirely in Chinese, in one of our partner universities in Taipei, Shanghai or Beijing.

**Year 3:** Language and non-language modules will encourage you to reflect critically on your experiences in East Asia, and interpret relevant material in a wider sense, fitting it into the broader social, political, economic and cultural context of present day China and the Asia Pacific region.

**Year 4:** In your final year, you will further refine your language skills, using only authentic materials, to ensure you graduate proficient in both spoken and written Chinese, with strong translation skills between Chinese and English. You will have chances to focus on specialist Chinese language relating to politics, law, society and development, and contemporary, modern or premodern literature.

Non-language modules will further develop your understanding of Chinese society and culture; you will also write a major research project on a topic of your own choice related to Chinese history, society or culture and using both English and Chinese-language sources.

Find out more at [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)
BA Japanese T210

Japan is an economic powerhouse, a world leader in technology, and an important player on the global stage. Its varied cultural landscape, from manga cartoons to Zen Buddhism, continues to fascinate. Our modules allow you to focus not only on the language but also on Japan’s politics, society and its cultural expressions, or you may choose to put more emphasis on Japan’s interaction with its neighbours across the Asia Pacific region, or on Japan’s role in international development.

Year 1: In addition to intensive language study, you will cover Japanese history, politics, society, and literature.

Year 2: You will study at one of our 13 exchange universities across Japan. We have partnerships with universities in Tokyo and Kyoto, and also in smaller cities or more suburban areas. While abroad, you will achieve a high level of day-to-day language proficiency and learn from your experience of living in a different culture.

Years 3 & 4: Upper-level modules will develop your linguistic skills further, and enhance your understanding of modern Japan. Specialist modules are designed to develop your ability to analyse both historical issues and contemporary developments in Japan.

“I chose Leeds because the staff and students I met at open days were friendly, encouraging and, most importantly, seemed motivated about their teaching or studies.”

Laurence Newbery-Payton
BA French and Japanese

Find out more at www.leeds.ac.uk/courses
BA Thai Studies T311

Thailand has been one of the most dynamic countries in the world in recent decades, in terms both of economic transformation and political change. Dramatic economic growth and its social, political and environmental consequences have created an interesting array of opportunities for employment in sectors such as education, language teaching, business, diplomacy, the non-governmental sector, human resource development, advocacy and research.

Studying Thai at Leeds will allow you to develop language skills while discovering the cultural, political and historical context of this unique country. You will graduate with a range of skills and experiences that will give you access to the many opportunities that the Southeast Asian region offers.

Year 1: In your first year you will follow an intensive course in Thai language and culture; you may also take modules covering politics, economic development and social change in the region. This year will prepare you for your year spent at Chiang Mai University in Northern Thailand.

Year 2: During your year abroad, you will not only consolidate your language abilities, but will also immerse yourself in Thai culture and society. Many students use this extended period of time overseas to travel in the region and explore job opportunities.

Years 3 & 4: Throughout years three and four, the focus shifts to advanced and vocational skills in written composition, translation, debate and verbal presentation.

Your modules will cover topics including the emergence of the Thai nation, how Buddhism has shaped society and exploring contemporary Thailand through its distinctive media.

“Studying Thai and Southeast Asian Studies at Leeds provided me with a wealth of opportunities, experiences and abilities that will be invaluable throughout my life and future career.”

Daniel Whitehouse
BA Thai and Southeast Asian Studies

Please note this course has now been replaced with BA Thai Studies.

Find out more at www.leeds.ac.uk/courses
Encompassing the countries of East and Southeast Asia, Pacific America and Oceania, and home to over a third of the world’s population, the Asia Pacific region is a region of great cultural, political and economic diversity. Flourishing economies, dynamic trade and spectacular megaprojects exist alongside increasing food insecurity and environmental degradation. Our courses in Asia Pacific Studies offer you the opportunity to study this region and its composite nations from historical, economic, political, social and cultural perspectives.

All the modules are taught entirely in English. However you will also have the option of complementing your knowledge with the study of the Chinese, Japanese or Thai languages.

**Year 1:** You will study the historical and cultural origins of the Asia Pacific region. As well as core components, you will choose between optional modules covering Chinese civilisation, Japanese society or the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia.

**Year 2:** You will examine regional political economies including political organisations, international business and development. If you select our international option, you will spend your third year as an exchange student at a partner university in the Asia Pacific region.

**Years 3/4:** You will deepen your awareness and understanding of history, politics, international relations, society, culture and political economy and development in the Asia Pacific region.

“I have a great interest in the history, culture and politics of Northeast Asia and Asia Pacific Studies has allowed me to broaden my knowledge in all these areas.”

Anna Wheeler
BA Asia Pacific Studies (International)

Find out more at [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)
BA East Asian Religions and Cultures T4T3

Religious issues remain hugely influential in East and Southeast Asian societies, having impact on politics, society, family life, the individual, education, culture and the economy. This course will give you a fascinating insight into East and Southeast Asian religions and philosophies, providing important tools if you decide to live or work in contemporary Asia.

Year 1
In your first year you will develop knowledge of the historical development, major doctrines and social practices of Buddhism, Islam, Shinto, Christianity, Confucianism and Daoism in East Asia. You will also gain an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of influential religious and philosophical texts whilst acquiring fundamental academic skills for the study of East Asian religions and cultures.

Year 2
Building on knowledge gained at Level 1, you will choose from a range of modules to focus on specific East Asian religions and study the complex interrelationships between religion, society and politics.

Year 3
In the final year of your studies you will demonstrate advanced skills in writing, analysis and critical thinking whilst deepening your knowledge of different aspects of religious studies and East Asian religions with a variety of module options.
A joint honours degree allows you to study the same core topics as students on a single honours course, but you will take fewer optional and discovery modules so you can fit in both subjects. You will also undertake a major research project in either subject in your final year.

The intellectual range of such a degree, together with the organisational skill in combining two subject areas, makes you very attractive to employers. Our courses allow you to study your chosen subjects in depth, and to graduate with an honours degree covering two disciplines. All joint honours degrees within East Asian Studies are parented and administered by the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies and we will allocate you a personal tutor who will help guide your module choices and offer support, as well as act as a point of contact for references.

**Chinese joint honours within East Asian Studies:**
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Chinese
- BA Chinese and Japanese
- BA Chinese and Thai
- BA Chinese and East Asian Religions and Cultures


**Japanese joint honours within East Asian Studies:**
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Japanese
- BA Chinese and Japanese
- BA East Asian Religions and Cultures and Japanese

**Other subjects:** Arabic, Cultural Studies, Economics, English, Film Studies, French, German, International Business, International Development, International Relations, Italian A, Italian B, Linguistics, Management, Philosophy, Politics, Russian A, Russian B, Russian Civilisation and Spanish.

**Thai Studies joint honours within East Asian Studies:**
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Thai Studies
- BA East Asian Religions and Cultures and Thai Studies


**Asia Pacific Studies joint honours within East Asian Studies:**
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Chinese
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Japanese
- BA Asia Pacific Studies and Thai Studies

**Other subjects:** Economics, French, German, History, International Relations, Management, Politics, Russian Civilisation and Spanish.

**East Asian Religions and Cultures joint honours within East Asian Studies:**
- BA Chinese and East Asian Religions and Cultures
- BA East Asian Religions and Cultures and Japanese
- BA East Asian Religions and Cultures and Thai Studies

Find out more at [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)
All our single and joint honours language courses include a year abroad following a language and cultural studies course:

- Chinese students can choose to study in Taiwan (at National Chengchi University, Taipei) or at universities in China located in Beijing or Shanghai.
- Japanese students follow courses provided by universities in Akita, Fukuoka, Kobe, Kumamoto, Kyoto, Nagoya, Osaka or Tokyo.
- Thai students study at Chiang Mai University in Northern Thailand.

If you study BA Asia Pacific Studies (International) you will spend a year abroad.

If you study an East Asian language with another language as a joint honours course, you will spend two periods abroad. In most cases, you will spend your second year in East Asia, and the third term of your third year in a country where your other language is spoken. However, courses combining an East Asian language with Arabic, another East Asian language (Chinese, Thai and Japanese), Italian B, and Russian are five-year degree courses requiring two years abroad.

If you study BA Asia Pacific Studies or BA East Asian Religions and Cultures, you will have the option to study abroad at one at one of the 400 universities we have partnerships with worldwide, including several in East Asia, or spend a year working in either the UK or internationally. Studying Asia Pacific Studies as a joint honours with a non-language subject will allow you to take a year abroad or year in industry.

If you study Asia Pacific Studies or East Asian Religions and Cultures as a joint honours with a language you will have a compulsory year abroad.

For exact course details see [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)

When you are not in classes there will be plenty of time to travel and explore.

East Asian Studies at Leeds
The standard entry requirements for single honours courses are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA Chinese (T100)</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Japanese (T210)</td>
<td>AAB-ABB</td>
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<td>BA Thai Studies (T311)</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA East Asian Religions and Cultures (T4T3)</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Asia Pacific Studies (T300)</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Asia Pacific Studies (International) (T301)</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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Joint honours entry requirements vary by course, for more information see [www.leeds.ac.uk/courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/courses)

All applications must be made through UCAS by 15 January for admission the following September. [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**Access to Leeds**

Access to Leeds, the University’s widening access scheme, guarantees special consideration if you have personal circumstances that have affected your ability to demonstrate your talent and potential through grades alone.

Applicants to the scheme who receive a standard offer will also receive an Access to Leeds offer of two A-level grades (or equivalent) below the standard offer. To find out more visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/accessstoleeds](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/accessstoleeds)

**Alternative formats**

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